

FINAL

THIRD TAXING DISTRICT
of the City of Norwalk
Special Telephonic Commission Meeting
May 14, 2018

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: David Brown, Chair; Debora Goldstein;
Pamela Parkington*; Treasurer: Johnnie Mae Weldon*

STAFF: Kevin Barber, General Manager; Ron Scofield, Asst. General Manager

OTHERS: Tod Bryant* (President, Norwalk Preservation Trust)

* Participated by phone. Confirmed they could hear and be heard.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Brown called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public was in attendance to comment.

**DISCUSSION OF LISTING OF HISTORICAL CEMETERY AND OTHER
DISTRICT RESOURCES ON FEDERAL/STATE HISTORICAL REGISTERS**

Commissioner Goldstein asked Tod Bryant, President of the Norwalk Preservation Trust, to present the same discussion he had with her at a recent meeting so the entire Commission could hear it firsthand.

Mr. Bryant started out by stating that since the East Avenue railroad bridge is going to be replaced and since it involves federal monies, permits, licenses, etc., it has to go through Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) which requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. Since the East Norwalk Historical Cemetery is in close proximity to the East Avenue railroad bridge, Mr. Bryant is suggesting that TTD have the cemetery listed on the National Historic register for both Federal and State. Once the cemetery is listed on the National Register, it will automatically be listed on the State Register.

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Four locations were identified: East Avenue Historical Cemetery, Hat Factory, Norwalk's Founder Monument and the East Avenue Methodist Church. It was determined by SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) that the cemetery was eligible for the State Register and that the remaining three were not eligible for either State or Federal Register.

Discussion took place about getting the cemetery registered on the National Registry. Commissioner Parkington asked who has jurisdiction over the cemetery, TTD (deed holder) or the Cemetery Association. Mr. Bryant replied that it would be better coming from the property owner, which is TTD.

Commissioner Parkington asked by listing this as a historical property, will this inhibit the Cemetery Association in any way. Mr. Bryant replied, no. There are no restrictions, and it would make the cemetery eligible for different types of grants.

Commissioner Goldstein asked who has jurisdiction over the Founder's Monument. Mr. Bryant stated that the monument would only be eligible for the State Register and that SHPO's take was that the design is very simplistic and it has been moved that they did not believe it had enough significance to be listed. He believes an argument could be made that it could be listed. He believes the jurisdiction would belong to the City of Norwalk.

Mr. Bryant suggested that TTD, the Preservation Trust or the Historical Commission/Society apply for a planning grant and proceed. TTD would need to employ a consultant. The grants are matching grants of 50/50. He believes the cost of the application to be in the range of \$5,000 to \$7,000. Commissioner Goldstein asked who issues the grants. Mr. Bryant said either the State Preservation Office or the Connecticut Trust. He was not sure who currently has the funds.

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED THAT THIRD TAXING DISTRICT COMMISSION EXPLORE AND TAKE ACTION TO ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY OF THE EAST NORWALK HISTORICAL CEMETERY AND POSSIBLY THE FOUNDER'S MONUMENT ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER AND DIRECT STAFF TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS REQUIRED TO BRING BEFORE THE COMMISSION A PROPOSAL TO MAKE SUCH APPLICATION.**

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EVERSOURCE UNDERGROUNDING – REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LETTERS TO VARIOUS AGENCIES

Commissioner Goldstein reviewed the first letter included in the packet as an all-purpose letter to go out to various agencies that the Commission wanted to address after the Shellfish Commission and Norwalk Harbor Management Commission brought their various concerns. It was reviewed at a prior meeting with the Commission, but felt they did not have sufficient time to review it in full. This letter was to address all the motions that were made at the April 16, 2018 meeting with regard to the Eversource project. This letter deals with all of them except the

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FERC letter, the Muni letter in connection with the Coast Guard and the support letter of the Shellfish Commission's recommendations for the Submarine Comms Cable which is not part of this project. Since the last meeting, Commissioner Goldstein also wrote a draft letter for FERC.

Commissioner Goldstein stated that she had heard back from Peter Johnson (Shellfish Commission Chair) and he was fine with the letter as written. Commissioner Goldstein was also in touch with John Pinto from the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission and he, too, was on board with the letter.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the letter. They reviewed the list of recipients and added Michael Corsello (Chairman of Parks & Recreation Committee of the Common Council). A few minor technical clarifications were made to the letter.

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO PROCEED WITH THE FINAL AMENDMENT AND SIGN AND ARRANGE FOR STAFF TO DELIVER THE LETTERS TO THE AGENCIES INCLUDED ON THE LIST IN THE PACKET AS AMENDED WITH MICHAEL CORSELLO, CHAIRMAN OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The letters that are addressed to employees of the City of Norwalk will be sent via Priority Mail with tracking. All other letters will be mailed Certified with Return Receipt Request.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the draft letter to FERC. It was the consensus of the Commission that the letter was good as written. Copies of letters addressed to Norwalk Harbor Management Commission, Shellfish Commission and Mr. Mailman's letter should be included as attachments to the FERC letter.

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FERC LETTER AS WRITTEN AND THE VERIFICATION LETTER FROM DEBORA GOLDSTEIN AND HAVE THEM MAILED TO FERC PER THE INSTRUCTIONS.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The letter to FERC will be sent via Express Mail per their direction for a "Request for No-Action Letter."

ADJOURN

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Tenney
Executive Assistant
Third Taxing District